

**Application No. 09/839342**  
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**Amendment**  
**Attorney Docket No. E14.2B-9321-US01**

**In the Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A method for removing gross soils from equipment which is an assembled state using a multi-step cleaning process, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) flushing the equipment with a pre-rinse solution prior to application of a cleaning composition, said pre-rinse solution comprising water and a partially neutralized anionic polymer; and
- b) washing the equipment with a cleaning composition;

whereby gross soils are removed.

2. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is selected from polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polysulfonates, polyphosphates, polyphosphonates, phosphino polycarboxylates, polyaspartates, polycarboxylated alcohol alkoxylates, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof.

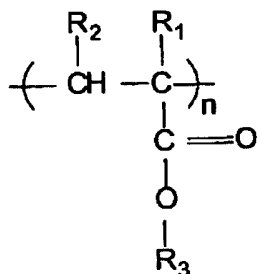
3. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said pre-rinse comprises from about 5 to about 5000 ppm of said partially neutralized anionic polymer.

4. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said pre-rinse further comprises a co-builder which is ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, hydroxyethylethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, aminotri(methylenephosphonic acid), 2-phosphonobutane-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid, diethylenetriaminepenta(methylenephosphonic acid), or mixtures thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is a polyacrylate comprising from about 10% to about 90% by weight of a substituted acrylic monomer or salt thereof having the general formula

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where R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> are independently hydrogen or a C<sub>1</sub> to C<sub>4</sub> alkyl or hydroxyalkyl, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen or an alkali metal salt, and n is a positive number.

6. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said pH of said pre-rinse solution is about 4 to about 11.
7. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said pH of said pre-rinse solution is about 5 to about 10.
8. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said multi-step cleaning process is selected from laundry washing, dishwashing, warewashing, hard surface cleaning, clean-in-place cleaning and clean-out-of-place cleaning.
9. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 7 wherein said multi-step cleaning process is a clean-in-place cleaning of heat transfer equipment surfaces or a clean-out-of-place cleaning of heat transfer equipment surfaces.
10. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of flushing the substrate with at least one other rinse solution.
11. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 10 wherein said at least one other rinse solution is acidic, caustic or neutral.
12. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of applying a cleaning solution to said substrate which is an enzymatic solution, a caustic solution, an acidic solution, a neutral solution, or a mixture thereof.
13. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said substrate is metallic, polymeric or glass.
14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 13 wherein said substrate is stainless steel, copper, brass, aluminum, plastic or glass.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said substrate is a hard surface.

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16. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said substrate is a hard surface and said gross soils on said hard surface result from said hard surface having contact with food.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 15 wherein said hard surface is a pipeline, bulk tank, tank in a transportation vehicle or silo.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said substrate is a porous surface.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18 wherein said porous surface is a textile or membrane filter.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said gross soil comprises whey, whey fractions, milk, milk fractions, or other milk product.
21. (Currently Amended) A multi-step clean-in-place method for cleaning hard surfaces in dairy operations, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) flushing said hard surface with a pre-rinse solution said pre-rinse solution comprising water and a partially neutralized anionic polymer and having a pH of about 4 to about 11; and
  - b) further comprising at least one other step which is either flushing said hard surface with at least one other rinse solution, said rinse solution being either acidic, caustic or neutral, or cleaning said hard surface with a main wash solution, or [[or]] a combination thereof.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is selected from polyacrylates, polymethacrylates, polysulfonates, polyphosphates, polyphosphonates, phosphino polycarboxylates, polyaspartates, polycarboxylated alcohol alkoxylates, copolymers thereof, and mixtures thereof.
23. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said main wash solution is an enzymatic wash solution, a caustic wash solution, an acidic wash solution or a neutral wash solution.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution comprises from about 25 to about 10000 ppm of said partially neutralized anionic polymer.
25. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 21 wherein said pH of said pre-rinse solution is about [[4]] 5 to about [[11]] 10.
26. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein said pre-rinse solution removes gross soils.

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27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein said gross soil comprises whey, whey fractions, milk, milk fractions, or milk products.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 5 wherein said polyacrylate has a molecular weight average molecular weight of about 500 to about 15,000 g/mole.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1 wherein said partially neutralized anionic polymer is a polyacrylate which is 5-10% neutralized.

30. (Withdrawn) A method of cleaning-in-place process equipment soiled with gross soils as a result of coming into contact with milk, milk fractions, whey or whey fractions, said method comprising the step of contacting a surface of the equipment soiled with calcium with a pre-rinse solution comprising at least one partially neutralized anionic polymer.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein said at least one partially neutralized anionic polymer is a polyacrylate.